



### The 2021 St Helena Population and Housing Census: initial results

This Statistical Bulletin releases some initial results from the recent Population and Housing Census conducted on St Helena in February 2021. Please note that all figures and statistics from the 2021 Census in this Bulletin are provisional, and may be revised as part of the data quality checking and editing process currently being undertaken by the Statistics Office.

#### The resident population of St Helena was 4,439 on Census night

The provisional count of the number of residents of St Helena on 7 February 2021 (Census night) is 4,439, of which 4,114 were St Helenian<sup>1</sup>.

Table 1. Resident Population by Nationality, 2016 and 2021 Censuses

	2016	2021	Change between 2016 and 2021	
<b>Resident population</b>	<b>4,534</b>	<b>4,439</b>	-95	-2.1%
St Helenian	4,122	4,114	-8	-0.2%
Other nationalities (i.e. not St Helenian)	412	325	-87	-21.1%

Note: For 2021, the figures in this table are provisional.

These figures include residents who were temporarily abroad, but they exclude short-term visitors. Adding in the short-term visitors, the total number of people counted in the Census was 4,477; the number of short-term visitors to St Helena was quite small, due to the travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (in the 2016 Census, the number of short-term visitors was much higher, especially as it included persons on board St Helena's supply ship, the RMS St Helena).

The resident population is slightly lower, by 2.1%, than the 4,534 residents recorded in the 2016 Census. There were slightly fewer St Helenian residents in 2021 compared to 2016, 4,114 compared

<sup>1</sup> In the 2021 Census, a resident is defined as a person who lives on St Helena for more than six months, and a St Helenian is someone who is St Helenian either by birth or by naturalisation (i.e. has acquired "Saint Status").

to 4,122. The 21.1% fall in the number of residents who are not St Helenian, from 412 to 325, is likely due to the completion of the Airport and the subsequent departure of foreign construction workers in 2017 and 2018.

### Average household size has fallen slightly

There were 1,937 households occupied by 4,376 residents on Census night; this gives an average household size of 2.3 residents per household (the remaining 63 residents were not living in households but were living in institutions, such as the Community Care Centre and the Prison). This is slightly lower than the 2016 Census, which recorded 4,349 residents living in 1,842 households, giving an average number of people per household of 2.4.

### The districts with the most residents are Half Tree Hollow, St Pauls, and Longwood

St Helena has eight electoral districts, and Table 2 shows the number of people living in those districts in the 2016 and 2021 censuses, both people living in households and people living in communal establishments, such as the Princess Anne Community Care Centre or Bradley's Camp (in 2016 this was a work camp for Airport construction workers, and in 2021 this was a quarantine camp for the COVID-19 pandemic).

In the 2021 Census, Half Tree Hollow is the biggest district in terms of residents, with a population of 1,034 – almost exactly the same as in 2016. St Pauls is the second largest district, with 928, and Longwood is third, with 765. The smallest districts, in terms of people (though not in terms of area) are Blue Hill and Sandy Bay, which are about the same size (174 and 177 respectively).

Table 2. Resident Population by Electoral District, 2016 and 2021 Censuses

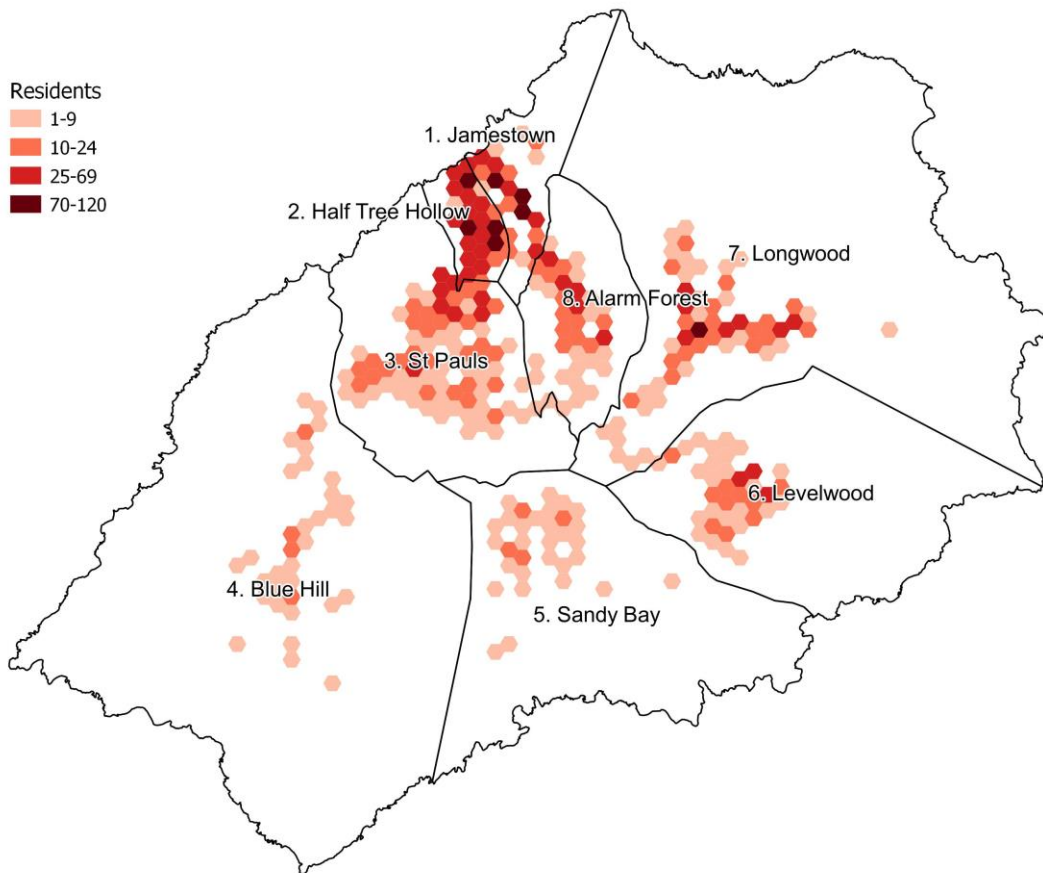
	2016	2021	Change between 2016 and 2021	
<b>Resident population</b>	<b>4,534</b>	<b>4,439</b>	<b>-95</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>
Half Tree Hollow	1,035	1,034	-1	-0.1%
St Pauls	846	928	+82	+9.7%
Longwood	893	765	-128	-14.3%
Jamestown	657	625	-32	-4.9%
Alarm Forest	383	394	+11	+2.9%
Levelwood	369	342	-27	-7.3%
Sandy Bay	193	177	-16	-8.3%
Blue Hill	158	174	+16	+10.1%

Note: For 2021, the figures in this table are provisional.

Figure 1 illustrates the density of the resident population, by electoral district, using shaded hexagons that represents approximately 1/50<sup>th</sup> of a square mile. Darker shaded hexagons contain more residents; the most densely populated areas are Jamestown and Half Tree Hollow, followed by parts of Longwood and St Pauls. Blue Hill and Sandy Bay are the least densely populated areas.

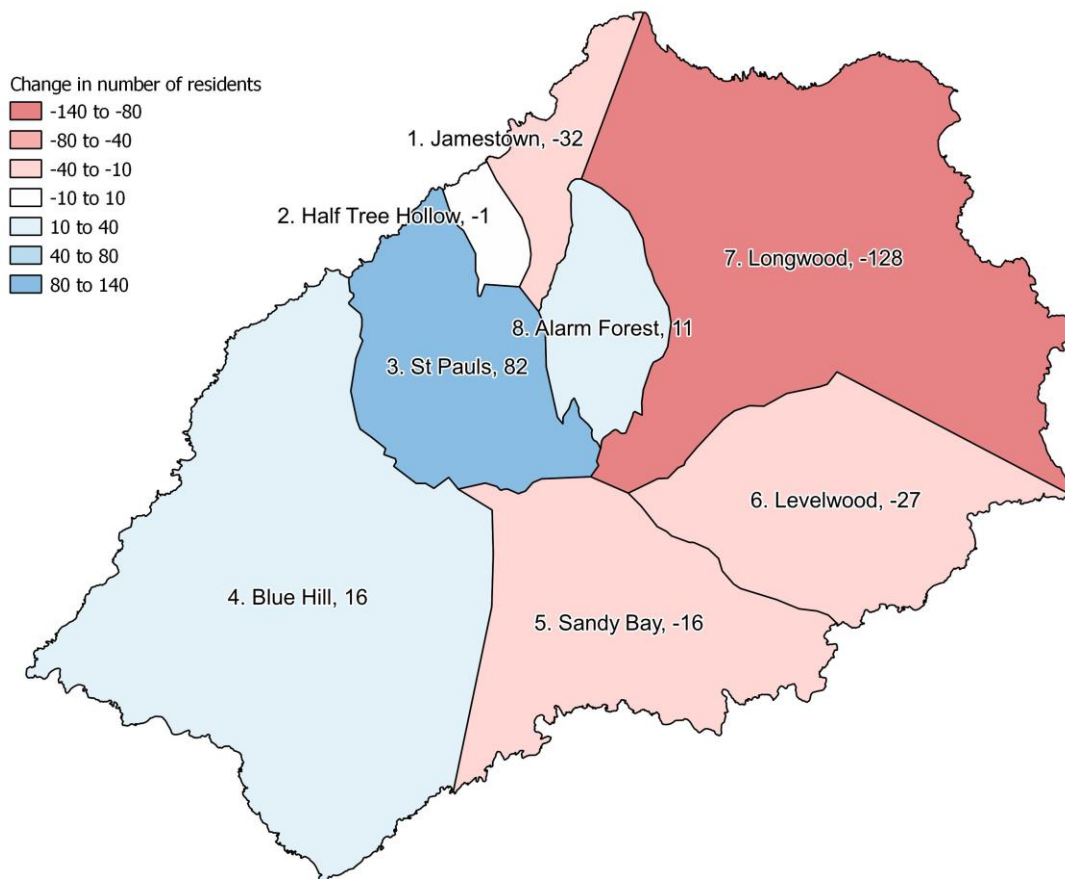
Figure 2 illustrates the change in the number of residents between 2016 and 2021. The area with the largest change upwards is St Pauls, with 82 more people living there than in 2016. Blue Hill and Alarm Forest have also increased, with an additional 16 and 11 residents respectively. The area with the largest change downwards is Longwood, due to the departure of foreign construction workers from the Bradley’s work camp when the airport was completed. Sandy Bay, Levelwood, and Jamestown also all have less people living there than in 2016.

Figure 1. Where people live: location of St Helena residents, 2021 Census



Note: each hexagon represents around 1/50<sup>th</sup> of a square mile.

Figure 2. Change in the resident population by District, 2016 to 2021



**The number of St Helenians aged 65 and over continues to rise**

The 2021 Census counted 1,087 resident St Helenians aged 65 or older on St Helena, which is 26% of the total resident St Helenian population, and around 18% more than in 2016 (Table 3). A similar ‘ageing’ trend was noted in the 2016 Census, and is likely caused by increasing life expectancies, and the return of St Helenians who left to work abroad when they were younger, typically from the United Kingdom, Ascension, or The Falklands.

The old-age dependency ratio (the number of people 65 and over divided by the number aged 15 to 64) is 44, based on the St Helenian resident population. This is significantly higher than 2016, when it was 35, and is very high when compared to other countries: in 2019, the United Kingdom was 29, and the only country with an old-age dependency ratio higher than 44 in 2019 was Japan (47).

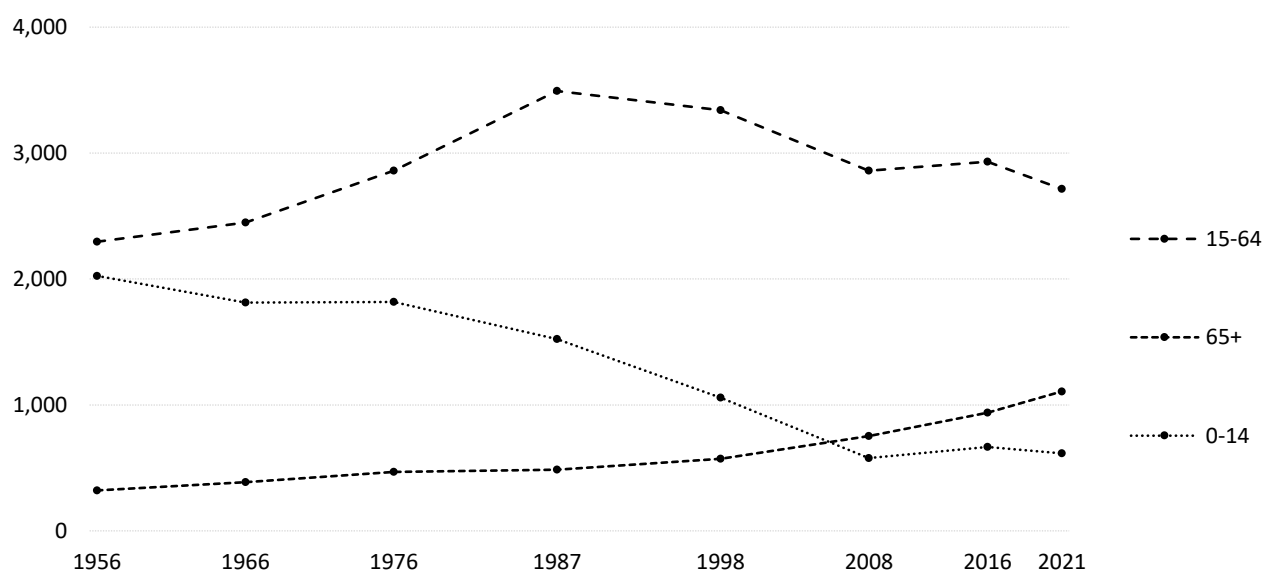
Table 3. Resident St Helenian Population: Average Age, Number by Broad Age Group, and Dependency Ratios, 2016 and 2021 Censuses

	2016	2021	Change between 2016 and 2021	
<b>Resident St Helenian population</b>	<b>4,122</b>	<b>4,114</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
Average age (mean)	44.2	46.9	+2.7	+6.1%
<i>Broad age group</i>				
0-14	560	547	-13	-2.3%
15-64	2,638	2,480	-158	-6.0%
65 and over	924	1,087	+163	+17.6%
<i>Dependency ratios</i>				
Age dependency ratio	56	66	+10	+17.1%
Young-age (child) dependency ratio	21	22	+1	+3.9%
Old-age dependency ratio	35	44	+9	+25.1%

Note: For 2021, the figures in this table are provisional.

Figure 3 shows the longer-term trends in the age-distribution, from the 1956 Census (please note that the chart is based on the total resident population rather than the St Helenian resident population, because earlier censuses did not always publish results broken down by nationality). The number of residents aged 65 and over has increased in every Census but the number of children aged 0-14 has declined, especially between 1976 and 2008; in 1956, there were over 2,000 children, but by 2008 there were less than 600. The number of people between 15 and 65 has also declined since 1987 – apart from 2016, when workers from abroad were present on St Helena to assist with the construction of the Airport.

Figure 3. Resident population in different age groups, successive Censuses from 1956 to 2021



Figures 4 and 5, and Table 4, illustrate the change in the demographic structure of the St Helenian population since 2016 in more detail. The number of resident St Helenians in each of the age groups above 50 has increased, especially in the 70-79 age group, which increased by 147 people, or 36%. However, the number of resident St Helenians has decreased in every age group below 50, especially in the 40-49 age group, which decreased by 154, or 24%.

Figure 4. Resident St Helenian Population by 10-year Age Groups and Sex, 2016 and 2021 Censuses

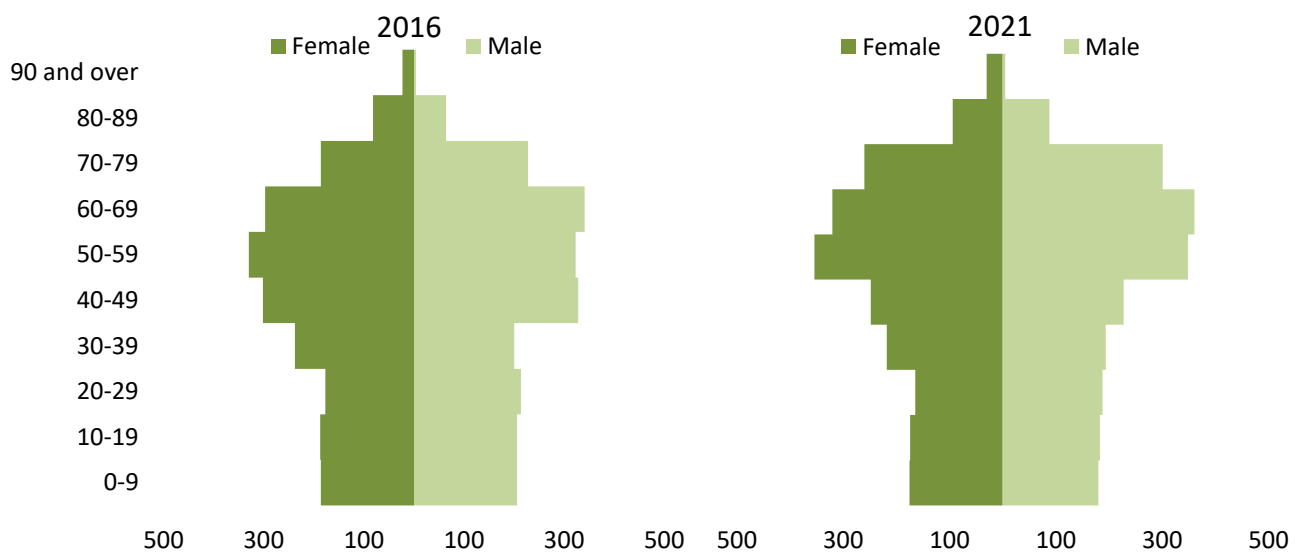


Figure 5. Change in the Resident St Helenian Population between 2016 and 2021, by 10-year Age Groups and Sex

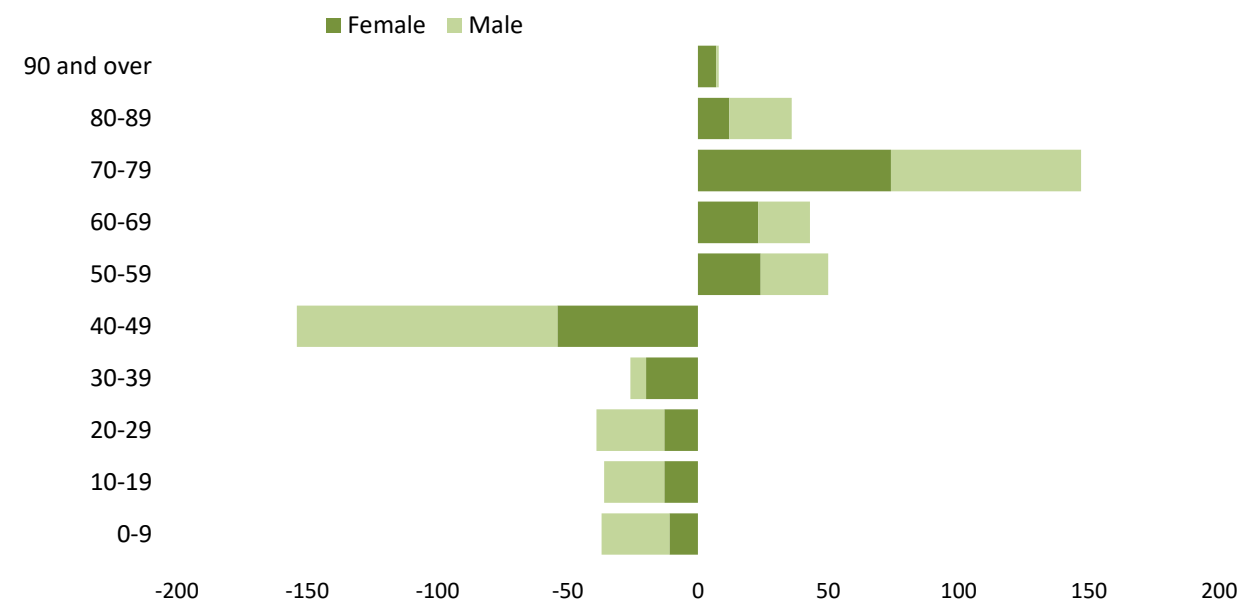


Table 4. Resident St Helenian population, 2016 and 2021 Censuses

	2016	2021	Change between 2016 and 2021	
<b>Resident St Helenian population</b>	<b>4,122</b>	<b>4,114</b>	-8	-0.2%
<i>By Female/Male</i>				
Female	2,008	2,037	+29	+1.4%
Male	2,114	2,077	-37	-1.8%
<i>By 10-Year Age Group</i>				
0-9	392	355	-37	-9.4%
10-19	393	357	-36	-9.2%
20-29	391	352	-39	-10.0%
30-39	438	412	-26	-5.9%
40-49	630	476	-154	-24.4%
50-59	653	703	+50	7.7%
60-69	638	681	+43	6.7%
70-79	414	561	+147	35.5%
80-89	146	182	+36	24.7%
90 and over	27	35	+8	29.6%

Note: For 2021, the figures in this table are provisional.

## Acknowledgements

The 2021 Population Census was a large undertaking which relied on the hard work and dedication of a core team of staff at the Statistics Office. The Census Supervisor was **Neil Fantom**, assisted by Census Officers, **Justine Joshua**, **Kelly Clingham**, and **Bertina Benjamin**, and a team of 27 enumerators, to whom many thanks are extended. Thanks are also extended to all those who supported the Census exercise in any way, and to all the members of the public who participated in the Census and gave up their time to complete the Census questionnaires; they have helped to provide information that will be used to support the future sustainable development of St Helena.

## Further information

If you have any comments or questions about the 2021 Census, please visit us in person; the Statistics Office is on the **first floor of the Castle, Jamestown**, at the back of the main courtyard. Call by, we would love to see you! You can also contact us by telephone: our direct line is **22138** or via the Castle switchboard on 22470. If calling from overseas, the international dialling code for St Helena is +290. Our general office email address is: [statistics@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:statistics@sainthelena.gov.sh), or you can email team members directly (the format is [firstname.lastname@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:firstname.lastname@sainthelena.gov.sh)).

For more statistical data and reports, covering many aspects of St Helena's social and economic development, please visit us on the web: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics).